



UNITED STATES COUNCIL ON LATINO AFFAIRS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 30, 2010

Contact: Jose Ibarra
chair.ocha@gmail.com

UNITED STATES COUNCIL OF LATINO AFFAIRS STATEMENT OF OPPOSITION TO ARIZONA SENATE BILL (SB) 1070

The members of the various U.S. state Latino councils and commissions oppose state and local immigration enforcement measures such as Arizona Senate Bill (SB) 1070 of the 49th Legislature, Second Session. Such measures are misdirected attempts at dealing with the state consequences of a broken federal immigration system. President Obama recently stated that "[I]f we continue to fail to act at a federal level, we will continue to see misguided efforts opening up around the country."

Americans agree that the immigration system is broken, and those on both sides of the issue want to see Congress move toward finding a solution. The lack of leadership shown by Congress -- those elected by citizens and entrusted to deal with their issues -- has enabled the problem to continue to grow. However, Arizona's passage of a bill that creates more divisiveness by playing on anti-Latino fears is an affront to the values of our nation. Instead of taking the opportunity to lead the United States toward a unified solution, Arizona has instead broken ranks to unilaterally decide an immigration policy that will affect all states.

The problem of immigration is not just a Latino issue, but one that impacts all New Americans regardless of their country of origin. The United States has been built by immigrants and we challenge our leaders to see this as an opportunity to embrace the diversity of the nation, which will strengthen the American economy and our values.

Moreover measures such as SB 1070 are ineffective because they ignore the economic phenomenon of supply and demand and foreign policies that draw unauthorized workers to the United States, including the businesses willing to employ them. Instead the legislation focuses on punishing the much easier and more vulnerable target—families. The result will be increased human and civil right abuses that will prove costly, not only in terms of litigation, but in terms of the credibility of America's promise.

Delaware Governor's Advisory Council on Hispanic Affairs

Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials (GALEO)

Iowa Division of Latino Affairs

Nebraska's Mexican American Commission

Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission

Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs

Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs

Pennsylvania Governor's Advisory Commission on Hispanic Affairs

Washington Commission on Hispanic Affairs